

Dallas's goodwill ambassador to the world through his dedication to improving the lives of young people everywhere.

His work to aid programs for youth and children in a range of areas from student mentoring to anti-drug education to physical fitness is impressive. Among the numerous activities Smith has championed throughout his career, he has served as the Cowboys' United Way spokesman and supported Big Brothers/Big Sisters, The Kidney Foundation, Oak Cliff (TX) Little League, Buckner Children's Home of Texas, The Salvation Army, American Lung Association, the Battered and Abused Children's Foundation, B.A.D (Boxers Against Drugs) and Theater Arts for Youth. He has also worked with children through the Make-A-Wish Foundation, hosting many visits at the Cowboys' Valley Ranch practice facility during the season.

Smith also co-founded the Open Doors Foundation, a not-for-profit that supports organizations and faith-based programs to provide educational, motivational and financial services to today's youth, with a special emphasis on narrowing the digital divide. In June 2002, he was appointed by President Bush to serve on the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports and educate millions of American children about the importance of staying healthy.

Mr. Speaker, for all of his record-breaking, awe-inspiring athletic achievements, for all his selfless work in the community to serve as a role model for youth and to help those less fortunate, and for his time spent as an outstanding husband, father, and citizen, I rise to salute Emmitt Smith. He is a Texas treasure and a national icon, and I join the legions of Dallas Cowboy fans in congratulating him and his family on this momentous occasion. Go Cowboys!

HONORING TED MALIARIS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Ted Malialis for his efforts to promote patriotism around the Nation through music.

Ted Malialis is now touring the United States performing "A Tribute to America—A 21st Century Anthem" which was composed by his mother, Ann S. Miller in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. The Anthem is dedicated to our Armed Forces, to our men and women in uniform, and all Americans who need to carry on in this time of crisis. By performing the Anthem with children's groups across America, Ted Malialis hopes to inspire and promote patriotism for our great nation through song.

Please join me in congratulating Ted Malialis for his service to America through the arts.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CORTEZ FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Cortez Fire Protection District based in Cortez, Colorado for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Fire Protection District played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield and the surrounding communities called upon the Cortez Fire Protection District to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 out-buildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Cortez Fire Protection District has served the citizens of Cortez since 1886 and operates from three fire stations. The district relies on a fulltime Fire Marshall and 36 volunteer firefighters, prepared to fight fires or provide medical assistance on a moment's notice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Cortez Fire Protection District before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the Cortez volunteer firefighters and their support staff for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Cortez Fire Protection District and others, the added devastation to our community, environment, and quality of life would have been unimaginable. Their tireless commitment throughout the fire season has served as an inspiration to us all and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ST. SAVA SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH IN MERRILLVILLE, IN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and enthusiasm that I congratulate the members of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church in Merrillville, Indiana as they celebrate their 88th anniversary, as well as the 11th anniversary of their present sanctuary's consecration. The festivities will begin on Sunday, November 17, 2002 with a special service, followed by a banquet to celebrate this momentous occasion.

Beckoning visitors who are traveling on Interstate 65, the golden domes of St. Sava offer an amazing spectacle. However, it is the interior of the church that the parishioners hold sacred. Built from Indiana limestone in a five-year construction project, the present sanctuary located at 9191 Mississippi Street in Merrillville replaced the original St. Sava Church, built in 1914 in Gary, Indiana, after that church was destroyed by fire. The dedicated members of the church came together to worship at the St. Sava "small hall" in Hobart Indiana while plans were made for their new sanctuary. Undeterred by the loss of their church building, the congregation demonstrated their commitment to each other and to their faith by carrying on with their services at the "small hall" for 13 years.

Mr. Speaker, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church is led by the Very Reverend Jovan Todorovich. The Very Reverend Todorovich has been the priest at the church for 33 years, and the parishioners are thankful for the spiritual and emotional leadership he has provided during that time. Church President Michael Galich has attended St. Sava since 1946 and is proud that the church has been able to maintain the Serbian traditions and customs that make their church unique. Because the congregation has been blessed with tremendous leadership and good fortune throughout its history, it is appropriate that the celebration of the church's anniversary will be held near the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Very Reverend Todorovich, along with his Grace Bishop Longin, and Father Irinej Dobrijevic will serve the Holy Hierarchical Liturgy the morning of November 17, which will be followed by a memorial service to be conducted by representatives of a local American Legion at the adjacent Memorial Park to commemorate the fallen soldiers of all wars. The celebration banquet will conclude the festivities, led by keynote speaker Scott Taylor, a former soldier, and author of a book detailing the military action in Yugoslavia and Macedonia following the NATO occupation of Kosovo.

Mr. Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating the congregation of St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church as they celebrate the 88th anniversary of their parish. Blessed with outstanding leadership and unwavering faith, the congregation of St. Sava has enriched Northwest Indiana by bringing the proud and historic Serbian traditions to our community. May God continue to bless the parishioners and the church leaders for many years to come.

A TRIBUTE TO THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PAN AMERICAN HEALTH ORGANIZATION

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Pan American Health Organization, which celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. PAHO is the oldest international health organization in the world, and serves as the Regional Office of the Americas for the World Health Organization. It is